

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

# RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, September 11, 2014, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 0950

## JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY PETRO POROSHENKO, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

During the recess, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 9 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.

The Assistant Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint meeting will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS);

The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN);

The gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS);

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON);

The gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN);

The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS);

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GERLACH);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL);

The gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA);

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER);

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY);

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCARELLI);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN);

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN); and

The gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAUNO).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ);

The Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN);

The Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO); and

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER).

The Assistant Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency H.E. Bockari Kortu Stevens, the Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The Members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 10 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable Paul D. Irving, announced His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine.

The President of Ukraine, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

President POROSHENKO. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Majority Lead-

er, Members of the House, Members of the Senate, ladies and gentlemen, it is impossible to imagine what I am feeling right now. How symbolic is the unity of the United States Congress in solidarity with Ukraine.

This is exactly what Ukraine now needs the most, unity and solidarity, not only with the United States Congress, not only with the United States, but with the whole world.

Let me thank you for your warmth and hospitality. Addressing both Houses of the Congress is one of the highest political privileges.

Standing here, I am grateful and fully aware that this honor goes not to me, but to the people of Ukraine, those brave men and women who are today on the forefront of the global fight for democracy. Forty-five million Ukrainian people are watching this speech in this session of the Congress, seeing and absolutely sure about our solidarity and our joint and common strength. And please allow me to speak on their behalf.

I will focus on the one thing that is at the core of Ukraine's existence today: freedom. There are moments in history when freedom is more than just a political concept. At those moments, freedom becomes the ultimate choice which defines who you are as a person or as a nation.

Ukraine has lived this moment over the last 10 months and became the scene of the most heroic story of the last decade, a synonym for sacrifice, dedication, and the unbreakable will to live free.

The people of Ukraine stood up to the corrupt regime of Yanukovich. They stood their ground during this dramatic winter. More of you were together with us during the last winter, and I thank you for this very important—for us—gesture of solidarity.

The defenders of freedom were willing to sacrifice their lives for the sake of a better future. What is even more amazing is that they and we won. Armed with only sticks and shields, they attacked the special police and chased them away.

The victory gained on Independence Square in Kiev, now known to the whole world as the very international word of "Maidan," was a victory against police brutality, harassment by the state-controlled media, violence, and intimidation.

There is nothing more impressive than seeing hundreds of thousands of peaceful people forcing out a violent dictator and changing the course of history—the second time in our history.

Day after day, week after week, month after month, thousands upon thousands streamed into the streets of Kiev simply because their dignity didn't allow them to remain passive and silent while their liberties were at stake.

The standoff on the Maidan lasted a long 3 months. It culminated on February 20 and 21, when over 100 protesters in 1 day were shot by snipers.

We call them the “Heavenly Hundred.” We revere them as true national heroes, and we applaud their heroism.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, in February, when the world saw that no one could take away Ukraine’s freedom, an external aggressor decided to take away a part of Ukrainian territory. The annexation of Crimea became one of the most cynical acts of treachery in modern history.

I just want to call your attention to the fact that Ukraine gave up the third largest nuclear potential in exchange for security assurance and was stabbed in the back by one of the countries who gave her that assurance.

Allow me to remind you that 20 years ago—exactly 20 years—in the Budapest Memorandum, Russia, along with the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and China, vowed to provide for the inviolability of Ukraine’s state borders and territorial sovereignty.

In reality, what we got from Russia was annexation and a war that has brought Ukraine to the brink of its survival.

The Soviet Union had collapsed too quickly, creating the illusion that this chapter in history was closed and that this story had come to the end; but, unfortunately, in the minds of the people, it has not ended. The imperialistic mindset is still there. Nostalgia for the Soviet Union and the dismissal of the settlement that ended the cold war has been cultivating revisionist instincts.

In the year 2008, Russian troops occupied Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Now, they have invaded Ukraine. The right to protect ethnic Russians and even Russian speakers can and already has become a reason to fan the flames of war. Besides Ukraine, Russian speakers reside now in Moldova, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Baltic States, Poland—even in Germany there is a very big majority—and Bulgaria.

Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine—who is next? Many things, including the effectiveness of the global nonproliferation system, will be put to a severe test and judged depending on the response of America and of the whole world to this very simple question.

Even NATO allies are at risk. As if to underline this point, 2 days after President Obama’s visit to Estonia, the day the NATO summit ended, an Estonian intelligence officer was abducted and accused of espionage.

The security assurances that were extended to Ukraine then have failed to work, proving that no agreements or treaties can secure world order.

So what can bring peace and what can maintain it? Common values, cooperation, interdependence, leadership, and responsibility. These are the things that can defend global security; so I urge you not to let Ukraine stand alone in the face of this aggression.

It is very important that the whole world will see this gesture of solidarity. Ukraine is not alone. We are together, we are united, and we will win because our fighting is fighting for

freedom and fighting for democracy. I have absolutely no doubt that our victory will be very close.

I am absolutely sure that the United States made a commitment that it would stand behind Ukraine’s territorial integrity, and we hope that it will live up to that promise because it is very simple: democracies must support each other. They must show solidarity in the face of aggression and adversity; otherwise, they will be eliminated one by one.

The aggression against Ukraine has become one of the worst setbacks for the cause of democracy in the world in years. With just one move, the world has been thrown back in time to a reality of territorial claims, zones of influence, criminal aggression, and annexations.

Can you imagine, within 2 weeks, Crimea was invaded and annexed. Why? Because Ukraine simply was not prepared to face this aggression. We were not prepared to face this enemy. That was exactly at the time of the revolution of dignity, and they used this opportunity, without any doubt.

The postwar international system of checks and balances was effectively ruined. The world was plunged into the worst security crisis since the U.S.-USSR standoff of 1962.

Today, we are witnessing another attempt at dividing the world, and Ukraine stands in the center of this attempt.

The outcome of today’s war will determine whether we will be forced to accept the reality of a dark, torn, and bitter Europe as part of a new world order.

This Ukrainian Army—imagine these young boys, underequipped and often unappreciated by the world—is the only thing that now stands between the reality of peaceful coexistence and the nightmare of a full relapse into the previous century and into a new cold war.

Ukrainian soldiers, Ukrainian people, and Ukrainian boys and girls are now on the front for freedom and democracy. They need your support.

The war that these young men are fighting today is not only Ukraine’s war. Everybody should understand that. It is Europe’s, and it is America’s war too. It is a war of the free world—and for a free world.

Today, aggression against Ukraine is a threat to the global security everywhere. Hybrid proxy wars, terrorism, national radical and extremist movements, the erosion of national and international agreements, the blurring and even the raising of the national identities, all these threats now challenge Europe. If they are not stopped now, they will cross European borders and spread absolutely throughout the world.

To prevent this, thousands of Ukrainian soldiers are in the line of fire exactly right now when we have a so-called cease-fire. From the date we started the cease-fire, Ukraine lost 17

lives of the Ukrainian soldiers, 67 are wounded. This is the cease-fire. This is the price Ukraine now paid for the peace.

Speaking in the United States Congress, from this high beacon of freedom, I want to thank them for their sacrifice. Thank you for the United States Congress. And I urge the world to recognize and endorse their fight. They need more political support throughout the world. They need more military equipment, both lethal and nonlethal, urgently needed.

Please understand me correctly, blankets, night-vision goggles are also important, but one cannot win the war with blankets. Even more, we cannot keep the peace with a blanket, and this is the most important of our values, of our aim: not to win the war, but keep the peace. For keeping the peace, we should be strong enough, and there is not any doubt that we will be strong because of you, because of our solidarity, and because of the combat, the very strong spirit of the Ukrainian soldiers.

I thank all of those in America who realize and appreciate the historic importance of this fight.

Just like Israel, Ukraine has the right to defend her territory, and it will do so with all the courage of her heart and dedication of her soul.

I urge America to help us and to rise and to be equal to its natural and manifest role. I urge America to lead the way.

Ukraine has a special bond with the United States. Today, Ukraine is taking shape as America’s natural and consequential partner in the region. This partnership is not circumstantial. It has not come because we find ourselves “in the same boat.” It came about because in the moment of the existential crisis, Ukraine’s choice was the same as America’s. It is very simple: freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

In a time of Europe’s skepticism and Russia’s open, unprovoked hostility, Ukrainian citizens have been ready to give their lives to see Ukraine democratic and free.

Circumstantial “boats” can change; the nature of the people cannot.

It is in the nature of the Ukraine people to tolerate no dictators and to strive for their freedom, no matter what. Given today’s situation, Ukraine’s democracy will have to rely on their own strong army.

In the upcoming years, building a strong military will be another existential test for Ukrainian democracy. I see it as my utmost duty to rectify the damage done to the Ukrainian military and to give Ukraine a strong, modern army that we can be proud of.

With this in mind, I strongly encourage the United States to give Ukraine a special security and defense status, which should reflect the highest level of interaction with non-NATO allies.

I also ask that the United States be forceful and stand by its principles

with respect to further sanctions against the aggressor.

Economic sanctions are important for many reasons. They help to distinguish between good and evil. They help us to defend and stand the moral high ground and not to sink into indifference disguised as pragmatism.

I understand that the wars of the last decade have taken a heavy toll on the economy of the West. And I understand, believe me, that Americans and American citizens and American taxpayers want peace, not war. So do Ukrainian citizens and taxpayers. However, there are moments in history, whose importance cannot be measured solely in percentages of GDP growth.

Ukraine's war is the only war of the last decade that is purely about values. Ukraine's war is the war, again, for the freedom, democracy, and European values, and the best evidence of that is the number of members of the Ukrainian Parliament which fortified our association agreement with the European Union.

Our nation decided to be free and democratic. Another nation decided to punish Ukraine for this. The world simply cannot allow this kind of behavior. "Values come first"—this is the truth the world and the West would remind Ukraine of over the last years. Now it is Ukraine's turn to remind the West of this truth.

Allow me also to say this. There is no way, at no price, and under no condition that we will ever put up with Crimea's occupation. Ending the occupation and annulling the annexation is not only an integral precondition to a full normalization of the relation between Ukraine and Russia; it is also the integral precondition for Crimea's own prosperity and modernization.

Until this precondition is fulfilled, I urge America and the world to stand united in sending a signal to the aggressors of today and of the future that the policy and practice of annexation will never be tolerated.

And clearly, I am not talking about a military solution of the Crimean problem. This will be a dilemma for many years; a choice between two ways of life; and two political, economic, and social systems. But I have no doubt that in the long run the system that offers the greater freedom will prevail. It always does.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, the last half year has been a time of ultimate challenge for millions of Ukrainians. It was a time for heroism and sacrifice. For too many, it became the ultimate sacrifice. Let me share with you two human stories that illustrate my point.

On March 3, when the occupation of Crimea just started, there was one man in the Crimean city of Simferopol who did the unthinkable. When millions felt paralyzed and stunned at what was unfolding before their eyes, Reshat Ametov, a 39-year-old father of three, decided not to be silent.

This brave son of the Crimean Tatar people went on a one-man protest in

front of the occupied city hall. He did nothing more than hold a sheet of paper that said: "NO to Occupation!" A group of unknown people arrested him and transported him away—in the plain sight of dozens of witnesses, in front of TV cameras. Two weeks later, he was found tortured and executed—Mafia style.

Just the thought of this man's final tormented minutes sends chills down my spine. I ask myself: what made this hero do what he did? And I can find no other answer than: he did it for freedom, so his children would not face slavery like that of a neo-Stalinist dictatorship.

I am convinced that years from now, when Crimea's occupation will belong to the past, the Crimean people will think about what he did and salute his braveness—just like I do now.

And I assure you that Ukraine will always stand together with the Crimean Tatar people, whose language, rights, and culture are being trampled upon right now—as they were many years ago under Soviet rule.

I urge America and the world not to be silent about these crimes.

It is Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars who are being oppressed in Crimea right now.

And it is time for all the people of goodwill to rephrase John Kennedy's words from over 50 years ago: "I am a Crimean Tatar"—and there is nothing that would make me give up my freedom.

And let me also commemorate another Ukrainian hero—Volodymyr Rybak, a 42-year-old father of two and a member of the municipal parliament of East Ukrainian Horlivka.

On April 15, he confronted separatists and Russian special operations officers over a separatist flag that they were trying to hoist atop the local administration building. Exactly just like Reshat Ametov, he was abducted and tortured. His last hours must have been unthinkable. His body was badly mutilated.

Today, I stand here in awe of this tragedy and of the courage and sacrifice of this man and of the courage and sacrifice of the millions of Ukrainians.

From the bottom of my heart, I deeply believe that there will be a time—and I am sure very soon—when Horlivka's central square will be named after Volodymyr and when schoolchildren will bring flowers to his monument.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, make no mistake: Europe's, and the world's, choice right now is not the choice between a unipolar and a multipolar order. Neither is it a choice between different kinds of civilizations. It is a choice between civilization and barbarism.

And while standing at this juncture, before this great trial, the democratic world cannot shrink or hesitate. We don't want to see all the democratic accomplishments of the last decades to be erased and to have been for nothing.

The free world must stand its ground. With America's help, it will.

Yes, we live in a world that is mutually reliant and interconnected. In this world, the aggression on one democratic nation is aggression against all of us. We fully understand that.

If anyone had doubts about this—if anyone was hoping "to sit it out" while Ukrainians and Russians continue killing each other—this ended on July 17, when a Russian missile launched by a Russian mercenary shot down the civilian Boeing 777 Malaysian flight MH17. Two hundred and ninety-eight innocent, peaceful people, many of whom were flying on their vacations in the south, met their ultimate demise in the steppes of Ukraine.

Their cold-blooded killing—just like the barbaric treatment of their remains afterwards—showed that whoever floods Europe with uncontrolled weapons puts millions of lives at risk for years, for decades.

This was an undisputable brutal act of terror. Unfortunately, it was this tragedy that gave a wake-up call to many in the world about the situation in Ukraine.

Long after wars end, the fear and hate linger on.

How many more deaths will be caused by the handguns handed out, with absolutely no controls or accountability in those regions?

How many innocent children will step on landmines so massively utilized by the separatists?

How many lives will be ruined and souls poisoned by the propaganda machine?

The act of pumping the region full of uncontrolled arms represents a policy of state-funded terrorism—and it needs to stop now.

The cynical downing of the Malaysian Boeing revealed one more important thing: we are now at the forefront of the fight against the terrorism.

And we need to join our efforts to effectively respond to this challenge.

With this said, people throughout the world are asking the same questions:

"Are we on the eve of a new cold war?"

"Is the possibility of a new, terrible, and unimaginable European war there?"

"Is what until recently seemed unthinkable now becoming a reality?"

Sadly, today, the answer to all of these questions is "yes."

However, we cannot and must not accept this as an inevitability.

As recently as 2008, the then-President of Russia ran his election campaign under the slogan "Freedom is better than non-freedom." And it was in Russia in the year 2008.

I am sure that, despite the Crimean annexation and the ongoing aggression, millions of Russians still remember that slogan and take it seriously.

Please, let's remind them. Let's show them that freedom is not a luxury—as some try to convince them—but a necessity, and a precondition for the true success of a nation.

I am convinced that the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia have enough goodwill to give peace one last chance and prevail against the spirit of hate between our countries.

That is why my Presidency began with a peace plan and a one-sided cease-fire, which will last a long 10 days, again, paying a very high price of the killing Ukrainian soldiers, hitting Ukrainian planes, and hundreds wounded. We keep this cease-fire a long 10 days.

Unfortunately, this was not accepted by Russian separatists. That is why we are holding our fire now. That is why two armies stand before each other without massively shedding each other's blood. And if things work out right, they will not have to.

I am in daily contact with the leaders of the world, including the leader of Russia.

The dialogue is not easy, believe me. Over these last months, too much goodwill was destroyed. Too much hate was generated, naturally and artificially. Too many people have died.

Based on that, I feel there is a growing mutual recognition that enough is enough. The bloodshed must stop. The pandemic of hate must be localized and contained.

As President, looking in the eyes of the mothers and wives of the dead soldiers and civilians, believe me, this is my hardest duty.

No one can take it lightly. Today, it is my burden and the burden of President Putin. As he lit a candle in a Moscow church to remember those who perished in this war last week, I did the same in Kiev.

And from the bottom of my heart, I deeply, profoundly wish that church candles would be the only things burned in Ukraine from now on.

□ 1050

Over the last months, Ukrainians have shown that they have the courage to stand up to the most powerful enemy. We will never obey or bend to the aggressor. We are ready to fight, but we are a people of peace, and we extend the hand of peace to Russia and to the Russian-inspired separatists.

I am ready to do my utmost to avoid a further escalation and casualties, even at this point, when the war has already started feeding on itself.

Sooner or later, I am absolutely sure peace will return to Ukrainian homes; and, despite the insanity of this war, I am convinced that peace can be achieved sooner rather than later. I am ready to offer the separatists more rights than any part of Ukraine has ever had in the history of the nation.

I am ready to discuss anything—Ukrainian independence, Ukrainian territory, Ukrainian sovereignty—except one thing, Ukraine's dismemberment. I am confident that, if this war is about the rights and not about the geopolitical ambitions, a solution must—and I am sure will—be found.

Ladies and gentlemen, in 1991, independence came to Ukraine at a very

low cost and peacefully; yet the more real this independence became, the higher grew its cost. Today, that cost is as high as it gets.

While fighting this war, we learn to value independence and to recognize true friends, and at no point do we ever forget why we need independence. We need it to have a country worthy of the dreams of our ancestors. We need a state that would give its citizens a life of dignity, fairness, and equal opportunity.

To reach this goal, we will have to root out the sins that drained Ukraine's potential for such a long time and made the two decades of independence a time of lost opportunities. We are painfully aware of these sins—largely inherited from the era of Soviet Union decay—corruption, bureaucracy, and the self-preserving cynicism of political elites.

There is a saying that each people deserve the government it gets. Ukraine's two revolutions within a single decade show that Ukraine as a people is much better than Ukraine as a government. It shows that Ukraine needs and deserves deep and profound modernization in absolutely all spheres, of the kind that brought economic success to Poland.

Given the current situation in and around Ukraine, the implementation of comprehensive reforms is not a matter of Ukraine succeeding but of Ukraine surviving. Deeply aware of that, I gave my voters this pledge, and I will stick to it.

With the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement signed and ratified simultaneously in the Ukrainian and the European Parliament, we have a clear path of reforms before us. Never in the history of the European Union was there a document that was paid for so dearly, at such incredible human cost and sacrifice.

This sacrifice, the memory of the hundreds dead and wounded, will be one more reason and incentive to hold to this unique chance to make Ukraine live up to its potential.

Ukraine needs more than governance and noncorrupt public administration. Ukraine needs to delegate more powers to the local communities. Ukraine needs to rely more on its strong, vibrant, and dynamic civil society.

Ukraine is building a new model of managing its state and economic affairs, where merit and hard work are duly rewarded. Ukraine needs know-how, technology, and new startups to become better integrated with the global economy. And, for all that, we need America's help.

In particular, I ask the Congress to create a special fund to support investments of American companies in Ukraine and to help us with reforming our economy and our justice system. I assure you that all aid received from the West will be utilized by noncorrupt institutions and that the new generation of officials will make sure the funds are distributed effectively.

Ladies and gentlemen, we called our revolution the revolution of dignity. Human dignity was the driving force that took people to the streets. This revolution must result in an education of dignity, an economy of dignity, and a society of dignity.

Human dignity is what makes Ukraine's heart beat and Ukraine's mind look toward a new and better version of itself. Human dignity is the one thing we have to oppose the barbarism of those attacking us.

It is the one thing that we can set against the sea of lies in which the highly sophisticated and well-funded machine of Russian propaganda is trying to drown the truth about Ukrainian democracy.

In the coming years, too many things will depend on Ukrainian success. This success will be determined by Ukraine's new leadership, by its new political generation, and by the newly mobilized society of Ukraine. Ukraine truly makes a difference.

By supporting Ukraine, you support a new future for Europe and the entire free world. By supporting Ukraine, you support a nation that has chosen freedom in the most cynical of times.

In Ukraine, you don't build a democracy; it already exists. You just defend it. This is exactly what makes Ukraine unique and its struggle deeply and profoundly different from any other conflicts on the world scene. This is what makes Ukraine the ultimate test of adherence to the ideal of freedom.

"Live free or die" was one of the mottos of the American Revolutionary War.

"Live free or die" was the spirit of the revolutionary Maidan during the dramatic winter months of 2014, with the significant presence of the Members of the United States Congress, and we thank you for that.

"Live free or die" are the words of Ukrainian soldiers standing on the line of freedom in this war.

"Live free" must be the answer with which Ukraine comes out of this war.

"Live free" must be the message Ukraine and America send to the world, while standing together in this time of enormous challenge.

Thank you.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 11 o'clock and 1 minute a.m., His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

#### JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.